

## Oral history with 17 year old white female, Jackson, Kentucky (Transcription)

Begin M20 B(5) CAL SURVEY OF AMERICAN DIALECTS CASSETTE 40 SIDE A The first excerpt is taken from original tape W99.

QUESTIONER: ...in like meeting people that they like or socializing with...

RESPONDENT: There's nowhere to socialize in ( ). Ball games is about the only thing I come to town to see. That's about it, you know, if the kids go to church they can meet somebody, but that's about the only place I know.

Q: Is there a church up in your neighborhood?

R: Yes, there's two close to where I live.

Q; Do you go to one of them?

R: No, not really. My sister does, though, but I don't go to it.

Q: Do your mom and dad go?

R: Mom goes, but Dad doesn't. He has to work on Sunday, you know, but ...

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Q: Which church does your mom and sister go to?

R: They go to the Baptist church.

Q: Is that in an area where you live, does the church seem like a very important part of people's lives, or is it just someplace to go on Sunday?

R: Well, the people that go there, you know, it is. But...

Q: Not everybody goes. What do you think, can you think of some ideas, attitudes that

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your folks ( ) to think that are different from like maybe attitudes about long hair, short skirts, or ( ) to do things, whatever.

R: Yeah. My dad says that everybody who has long hair is a hippie or a freak, and Mom, she don't like short skirts, she says. Anybody that wears short skirts is asking for trouble or, you know what I mean.

Q: So what do you think about it? Do you agree with them, or do you feel that your attitude, you know, toward the way you dress ( ) is different?

R: Well, I think it's the way you act instead of the way that you dress. If you have long hair and if you keep it clean and neat, you know, it don't look so bad.

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Q: What about, oh, just, I mean do your folks let you, you know, go to parties, or are there parties?

R: No ...

Q: What about ball games and stuff--is that a problem?

R: We go to ball games, but usually when I go, you know, I go with a member of the family. And there's not many parties. Around.

Q: Does some of you girls, you know, boys and girls go out by themselves, or are they supposed to in groups, or what's the attitudes towards that?

R: Oh Lord yeah, everybody, you know, they've been dating. If you want to, the trouble is you have to find you a boyfriend! But...

Q: Do most of the kids at school sort of pair-up with each other?

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R: Yeah, a lot of them do.

Q: What about you? Do you have a boyfriend?

R: No, not yet.

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Q; Do, how do the guys, how are the guys? Do you think that they're very often, it seems like the girls are sort of, become mature after, you know, faster, than the boys, or even they're just physically bigger, very often the girls are bigger--how do you look at the guys? I mean do you think some of them are sort of good friends, or ...

R: Oh, I guess ...

Q: ... act smart, or how are they, how are some of them?

R: I have some good friends, I like to think of them as good friends, you know, boys, but, well, I guess, you know there are some smart alics, boys and girls and all of the ...

Q: No, you know, no individual ones which seem worse or better than the others?

R: Well,yeah, but I wouldn't want to say who it would be!

Q: What about things you have noticed that have changed in your lifetime, uh, the way, attitudes towards things, you know, different" things, physical things, you know, buildings and roads, or that kind of thing?

R: Well, they've brought in a lot of new buildings,you know, and the radio station, now that's caused a lot of change because see, we can get the news, you know, faster. Everybody listens to the radio around here now.

Q: Where's the radio station?

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R: It's right up town. It's over by the bank up here. Do you

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know where the ...

Q: Which bank?

R: First National.

Q: I didn't know there was a radio station there.

R: You don't live around here, do you?

Q: No, I'm from Chicago.

R: Oh!

Q: You, do you sort of, I mean since Jackson, at least Jackson is fairly small, do you think people more or less know everybody else? Or do you think there are a lot of people that don't not, or are ...?

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R: Well, there's not, you know, you don't get together that much to know. I mean you know them by name, and you know when you see them, but you don't know them as real good friends. At least I don't know if I reckon.

Q: Are there sort of, I mean do you feel that people more or less stick to, you know, with their families?

R: Yes, they do most of the time.

Q: What do you and your family do--watch TV in the evening, or what do you do?

R: Yeah. (laughs) They're a lifesaver! If we didn't have that TV!

Q: What are some of the programs that are your favorite ones?

R: Let's see, Mom watches three stories, and I guess a lot of people around here do. I don't know if you've heard of "Days of Our Lives"? And the doctors, yeah. The worst one and all that. Mom watches that, and my sister does, too. I don't know

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about my favorite program and all that. I guess it'd be, ah, I watch the movies! Different ones, I watch, I think.

Q: Do they have favorite programs?

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R: He likes to watch detective shows, you know--"Hawaii Five-0", "Canon"--he likes Canon.

Q: Yeah, I like "Canon", too. I think he's getting fatter, though. What, do you think there's sort of a division in people's minds, let's say people who live in Jackson and people who live out? Do you understand what I mean? Do the people sort of group themselves according to, oh, who live in Jackson and who lives out of town?

R: I don't really know all that many people in Jackson to know of it. I guess, you know, there's people in Jackson who go to church as injects, and most of time, and don't really get out. You know, they, they're closer to town people, you know, close to the stores and traffic, you know, and things like that.

Q: Can you think of some pleasures that you've had that you think were really worse than others? Have you had any teachers, you know, since you've started school in the first grade that you really think have been bad?

R: You mean bad that they didn't teach me anything?

Q: Well, bad because either you didn't like them, something about their personalities, or they didn't teach you anything, any reason that you didn't like them.

R: Well, there's been a few, you know, that I didn't like. They were grouchy or, you know, something like that. But I guess most kids think that way about teachers.

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Q: Have there been any that you just thought, you know, were sort of special, you know, better than others?

R: You mean one that I liked?

Q: Yeah.

R: Let me see. I liked, no, I'd better not say that!

Q: It doesn't matter, you know, you don't have to tell me the name, just what it was you liked.

R: I liked a math teacher I had one time. You know, he explained, I like some teacher that explained things, you know, and not just sit up there, you know, or just to draw a page, try, or really try to teach us students. And be interested, you know, in what they're doing.

Q: You said that after 3:30 you were going to go study. How do you get home then, if you don't, do the buses leave at 3:30?

R: Yeah

Q: You don't ride the bus.

R; Not now, I used to, but we had to stand up on it, so I just go on ( ).

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Q: Where, where do you meet him?

R: Oh, I meet, he works in town. And I go down there in the parking lot and ( ). Q: Where does he work?

R: Oh, the Stamp Box. Do you know where that is?

Q: That's not the Post Office, is it?

R: Yeah, it's right next to it.

Q: Oh.

R: It's food stamps. Food stamp office.

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Q: What does he do?

R: Well he, you know, he sees who'll ( ) and he writes out the forms. You know, questions the people that apply for food stamps and sees if they should be allowed to get them.

Q: What decides who draws them?

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R: Well, if you haven't got enough money, you know, or you're disabled, or something like that.

Q: Are there a lot of people who have food stamps?

R: Yeah, most, a lot of people in Jackson and around the county do.

Q: Has your family ever been in a position where you've needed food stamps?

R: I guess we could use them, you know, but, you know food costs a lot, and we could use them if we had them, but we don't really have to have them. But you know we can get by without them.

Q: 'Cause of the garden and everything?

R: Yeah, most of the time.

Q: Does, what's the attitude towards people with food stamps? I mean is it sort of like they're too lazy to work? Or they're needed, or can't help the...

R: Well, you know some of them have to be.

Q: Have to be what?

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R: Too lazy to work, because some of those young kids go in there, and they're not pretty old at all. And you know they couldn't be disabled or, and some people go in there, you know, and lie about it. They ..

Q: What do they lie about?

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R: Oh, you know, they'll say they'll be out of work. And, you know, they're not really out of work. They just going out just to get the stamps.

Q: Does, I mean do the people in your brother's office catch those people, or do they ...?

R: Well, sometimes you do, but there's not really much, you know, you have to, Junior says you have to call them ahead of time for you to visit them. And you can't check up on something they've told, you know. Like they tell you they're not, they've been fired, they've been laid off somewhere, you can't call the people they were working for and ask about it.

Q: I wonder why not?

R: I don't know. I assume that they just said you couldn't.

Q: Has he said that there are a lot of people around on food stamps? Any idea how many? The percentage or anything?

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R: No, but you can tell there's a lot because you can go in a grocery store and watch the people check out and then a lot of them pay with food stamps.

Q: ( ) you were saying how sometimes you go to the grocery store and get in line and somebody with real fancy clothes comes up.

R: Yeah.

Q: And then pull out their food stamps.

R: Yeah, they do that. And you know, people's food stamps, usually buy the more expensive things, and you know, if you had to pay for it with money, then you'd get yourself.

Q: Don't people have to pay something for the food stamps?

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R: Well, it depends on how much money you've got coming in. Or how much you tell you've got coming in. If you get, if you don't get any money, you don't have to pay anything at all.

Q: It's free, huh? You don't have to pay ( ).

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R: And if, if you've got some money coming in you pay, you know, according to what you make.

Q: How do they buy, I mean how do they get food stamps? Are they like a certain, a certain amount, a certain dollar amount in a book, or how's that worked out?

R: You can get, let's see, there's five-dollar books and some are fifty cents, I think, and a dollar and ten dollars and twenty dollars. And they come in little books, you know, and you just tear them out and use them like you would money.

Q: That's very interesting. ( )?

R: In the bank?

Q: Somebody was talking about that ( ). That's not true though?

R: I don't think so!

Q: Well, the person didn't really know, but they said they thought that they had seen, you know, the people who work in the bank giving out food stamps.

R: I don't think they do. I thought they got them up here, you know, in the office that gave out food stamps.

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Q: Well, this person was wrong, maybe, because the person didn't really, wasn't really sure about it. What about, are there a lot of people, are the same people who get food stamps the same people who are on welfare?